

beginning to lengthen and deepen in colour at a point about halfway from the extremity until they form a large black terminal tuft or pencil, having a variable length, but often reaching 100 mm. Feet often, but variably, white, either partially or wholly. In *winter* the white of the under surface may extend upwards, according to locality, until the animal becomes completely white or white washed with yellow, the black tuft of the tail alone retaining its dark colour. The margins of the ears, being amongst the first to whiten, show this colour to a variable extent in many specimens otherwise apparently in full summer coat; for a similar reason the feet may be partially white at all seasons of the year.

The average dimensions (in millimetres) of a series are (approximately) :—

	Skin.				Skull.			
	Head and body.	Tail.	Hind foot.	Ear.	Greatest length.	Basal length.	Palatal length.	Zygomatic breadth.
Males ..	269	111	48	22	51	47	30	22
Females .	244	90	42	20	46	42	25	19

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*Mostly Mammals.* By R. LYDEKKER. Pp. 383; 16 plates.  
London: Hutchinson & Co. 1903.

To a very large number of readers the essays in this volume will be right heartily welcomed as old friends finally united under peculiarly happy circumstances. By a careful process of gleaning from the pages of 'Knowledge,' 'Nature,' 'The Field,' and 'The Asian,' Mr. Lydekker has produced a really delightful volume. Full of matter for thoughtful consideration, it will be cherished as guide, philosopher, and friend by those who live in the country, or are called away into wild places far from the haunts of men, where books are not, save those that are carried for their own intrinsic worth.

Perhaps the most fascinating chapters in the volume are those referring to the coloration of animals. Save the chapter on cowrie-shells, mammals only are dealt with under this head, but, as many will know already, these chapters are strikingly original and suggestive.

To the traveller the chapters on "Celebes: a Problem in Distribution" and "Deserts and their Inhabitants" will serve as incentives to observation, no less than those on coloration; whilst the

stay-at-home naturalist will find equally helpful studies in the essays on domesticated animals. But these are by no means the only subjects treated of in this volume. Extinct animals, armour-clad whales, monkey finger-prints, frogs and toads, and scorpions are amongst the other subjects noticed, and all alike are of extreme interest.

The book is well printed, tastefully got up, and well illustrated, there being no less than sixteen full-page plates, the most remarkable of which is a photograph showing giraffes in covert. The volume would make a handsome gift-book.

*Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenæ in the British Museum.*  
Volume IV. *Catalogue of the Noctuidæ in the Collection of the British Museum.* By Sir GEORGE F. HAMPSON, Bart. London: Printed by Order of the Trustees, 1903. 8vo. Pp. xx, 689. Plates lv.-lxxvii.

WE congratulate Sir George Hampson and the authorities of the British Museum on the publication of the fourth volume of the great Catalogue of the Moths of the world, which has been appearing at intervals during the last six years. With Volume IV. the great family of *Noctuidæ* is commenced, with one of the largest and most important of the subfamilies, the *Agrotinæ*, of which no less than 1126 species are described, by far the larger proportion of which have only been made known within the last few years. To the entomologists of the present day, the wonderful increase in our knowledge of insects and the large collections now in existence appear marvellous. So did Hewitson's collection of Exotic Butterflies to the older generation of naturalists who were his contemporaries; but hundreds of the most beautiful butterflies in the world, which are now to be found in every first-rate collection, were either unique and unattainable, or undiscovered in his time, and he did not live to see them. Our knowledge of moths has also very largely increased, though it cannot be supposed to be so forward as in the case of butterflies, for three reasons: firstly, because they are much more numerous; secondly, because many of them are less brightly coloured, and thus less attractive, and are therefore less assiduously collected; and, thirdly, because many are nocturnal insects and are therefore really more difficult to collect. But nothing is more likely to encourage and extend the knowledge of moths than comprehensive and well-illustrated works like Sir George Hampson's.

In addition to the coloured plates, there are 125 text illustrations, representing structural details. Many larvæ are described, those of North-American species by Dr. Harrison G. Dyar; but there are no illustrations of larvæ, which the character of the book would perhaps hardly admit of. Very full tables of species are given under genera, or, in the case of the larger genera, under sections; and we are glad to notice that when a number of generic names are included under a more comprehensive one (as in the case of *Euxoa*, Hübn., p. 153)